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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/018,160

11/01/2001

Ronald Alan Coffee

13401

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24116 7590 04/16/2008
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EXAMINER

SAMALA, JAGADISHWAR RAO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1618

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, amendment and remarks filed 12/05/2006. Claims 30, 34, and 55 are amended; claims 10, 12, 17, 27, 33, 39, 49-54, 56, 57 and 68 are cancelled. Accordingly claims 4-9, 11, 13-16, 18-26, 28-32, 34-38, 40-48, 55, 58-67, 69 and 70 are pending

Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/05/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Previous rejections that are not reiterated herein are withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 4-9, 11, 13-16, 29, 34-38, 40-42, 45, 55 and 58-60, drawn to a method of manufacturing tablet.

Group II, claim(s) 18-26, 28, 43, 46-48, 67 and 69-70 drawn to apparatus for manufacturing consumable or dissolvable tablet.

Group III, claim(s) 30-32 and 44, drawn to a consumable or dissolvable tablet.

Group IV, claim(s) 61-66, drawn to a method of administering a tablet.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: for example group I is drawn to a method of manufacturing tablets, comprising various carriers and parameters. Group II is drawn to apparatus for process of making the tablets. Group III is drawn to product produced by subjecting (group I). Group IV is drawn to method of administering the tablet. Therefore, there is no special technical feature for the tablets or different field of either making the tablets or administration of the tablets. Additionally, there is no unity of invention. The special technical feature has been identified as the active ingredient may be carried by the liquid or molten material used to form the fibres, fibrils, droplets, webs and mats. The product claimed contain a tablet (i.e., at least one fiber or fibrils to deposit onto the support surface to form a fibrous porous web or mat, forming a plurality of individual tablets with at least one active ingredient), which does not define a contribution over the prior art. (For e.g. Coffee, WO-98/03267 discloses processes and apparatuses capable of producing carious solid and partially solid forms

such as fiber, fiber segments, fibrils droplets, particles webs and mats of biological material). Accordingly, unity of invention is considered to be lacking and restriction of the invention in accordance with the rules of unity of invention is considered to be proper.

Election/Restrictions

3. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

- (i). A method of manufacturing tablets according to claims 34 and 55.
- (ii). A method of administering the tablet made by the apparatus of claim 19 and 34.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of the invention or species to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGADISHWAR R. SAMALA whose telephone number is (571)272-9927. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 A.M to 5.00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571)272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael G. Hartley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618

/Jagadishwar R Samala/
Examiner, Art Unit 1618

sjr